



MECKLENBURG COUNTY  
Health Department

August 10, 2011

**Health Advisory**

**Hepatitis A Exposure in Fayetteville, NC**

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**Highlights: Employees and anyone who visited the Olive Garden Restaurant located on 234 North McPherson Church Road in Fayetteville, NC anytime on July 25, 26, 28, 29, 31 and Aug. 1, 2 and 8 may have been exposed to Hepatitis A through a restaurant employee.**

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It is important that anyone working or visiting the restaurant on these dates receive Hepatitis A vaccine or immune globulin immediately. When given within 14 days of exposure, both immune globulin and Hepatitis A vaccine can prevent infection. Individuals up to date on Hepatitis A vaccine or with previous Hepatitis A infection are considered protected from this virus.

The age-appropriate dose of Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended for healthy persons age 12 months to 40 years old. However, for anyone who cannot take the vaccine, there is a Hepatitis A immune globulin recommended for persons:

- Over the age of 40 years
- Children under the age of 12 months
- Pregnant or Lactating mothers
- Immune-compromised persons, persons with chronic liver disease and persons who have been advised to avoid the vaccine due to potential adverse reactions.

It is possible that patrons prior to July 25 may have been exposed. While the vaccine is not effective for these patrons, it is important to recognize the signs and symptoms of Hepatitis A.

The early signs and symptoms of Hepatitis A appear two to six weeks after exposure and commonly include: fever, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, right upper quadrant pain, dark urine, light color stools, and jaundice (up to 70% of cases).

If you suspect your patient may have Hepatitis A, appropriate lab testing includes:

- Total anti-HAV (includes IgG and IgM) - Indicates **exposure or immunity**
- Anti-IgM anti-HAV – Indicates **acute infection**
- Liver function panel

If your patient is symptomatic and has lab testing consistent with Acute Hepatitis A infection, please call your local health department immediately to inform them of the case. Please be prepared to give the patient's contact information so that exposed household members and other contacts may be offered appropriate vaccination or immune globulin. In Mecklenburg County, please contact

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